

Message Text

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15 R
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 OES-03 L-03 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07

SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /053 W
----- 034837

R 190752Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4239
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 3049

DEPT PLEASE PASS ASST. SECTY BINDER, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, HU
SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION BINDER VISIT TO
BUDAPEST, SEPTEMBER 11-SEPTEMBER 13, 1975

REF A: BUDAPEST 2970 (NOTAL)
B: BUDAPEST 2695 (NOTAL)
C: STATE 204799 (NOTAL)
D: FBIS REPORT 111815Z SEP 75

1. SUMMARY: ASSISTANT SECRETARY BINDER HELD GENERAL BUT USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH HUNGARIAN TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS INCLUDING MINISTER RODONYI. BOTH HUNGARIANS AND AMERICANS OBTAINED BETTER IDEA OF POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION ONCE CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT CONCLUDED. COINCIDING WITH OTHER HIGH-LEVEL U.S. VISITS, HUNGARIANS MAY VIEW BINDER TRIP AS PART OF ORCHESTRATED EFFORT BY U.S. TO FILL VOID CAUSED BY LACK OF SUCH CONTACTS IN PAST. END SUMMARY.

2. OFFICIAL HOST FOR VISIT, DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND POST (MTP) FOLDVARI, ACCORDED BINDER AND RAMUNDO VIP TREATMENT AT AIRPORT. MORNING OF SEPT 11 THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY DISCUSSED POSSIBILITIES FOR
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COOPERATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WITH

FOLDVARI AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS. SPECIFIC AREAS COVERED INCLUDED INCREASED U.S. (AND HUNGARIAN) EMPHASIS ON PRIMARY RAIL LINES, WITH A CONCOMITANT DROPPING OF SMALLER ROUTES AND STATIONS; DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS (BUS VS. RAIL); AND FINANCING OF NEW EQUIPMENT INVESTMENTS. THE HUNGARIANS GAVE A FULL DESCRIPTION OF THEIR TRANSPORTATION NETWORK AND ITS PROBLEMS.

3. THE TWO SIDES ALSO DISCUSSED POSSIBILITIES OF A MINISTERIAL-LEVEL AGREEMENT. THE HUNGARIANS NOTED THAT AN UMBRELLA SCIENTIFIC AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT WOULD FIRST BE NECESSARY, AND ASKED BINDER TO USE HIS INFLUENCE TO URGE A RAPID CONCLUSION OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT. BINDER WISELY AGREED TO TAKE MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION AND MAKE APPROPRIATE INQUIRIES AFTER HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY REPLIED IN SIMILAR VEIN WHEN HUNGARIANS RAISED PROBLEM OF VISITS BY HUNGARIAN SHIPS TO U.S. PORTS.(COMMENT: UNFORTUNATELY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY HAD NOT RECEIVED A BRIEFING IN WASHINGTON PRIOR TO DEPARTURE ON REFTELS B AND C; NOR, PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL IN BUDAPEST, DID HE KNOW THAT USG WAS ON POINT OF OPENING NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOH ON CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AGREEMENT--STATE 212582, BUDAPEST 2956.)

4. AFTER OFFICIAL LUNCHEON HOSTED BY DEPUTY TRANSPORT MINISTER FOLDVARI, ASSISTANT SECRETARY CALLED AT EMBASSY TO DISCUSS CLASSIFIED MATTERS WITH AMBASSADOR AND CONCERNED EMBOFFS. DURING THAT SESSION REFTELS A, B, C, E AND F WERE FULLY AND FRANKLY DISCUSSED. IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD ASSISTANT SECRETARY BINDER AND AMBASSADOR CALLED ON TRANSPORT MINISTER RODONYI. SUBJECTS DISCUSSED SIMILAR TO THOSE OF MORNING MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER. IN REPLY TO ISSUE HUNGARIAN SHIP VISIT NOTICES, BINDER REPLIED THAT THE MATTER WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON, BOTH IN THE CONTEXT OF HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND IN TERMS OF WIDER RELATIONSHIPS INVOLVED. BINDER AND MINISTER ALSO EXCHANGED INFORMATION ON COMMON HIGHWAY SAFETY PROBLEMS.

5. SEPT 12 BINDER MET BRIEFLY WITH SECRETARY OF STATE
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(MTP) ABRAHAM. AFTERWARDS MAGYARS TREATED THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO VISIT OF HISTORICAL SITES AT VESPREM AND TIHANY, FOLLOWED BY TRIP ON BALATON FERRY TO SOUTH SHORE. LARGE HUNGARIAN REPAST FOLLOWED IN TYPICAL INN ON SHORES OF BALATON. WISELY, NO BUSINESS PLANNED FOR AFTERNOON SEPT 12. BINDER AND RAMUNDO DEPARTED EARLY A.M. SEPT 13. ECONOFF ACCOMPANIED ASSISTANT SECRETARY DURING HIS VISIT.

6. ACCORDING TO MTP OFFICIALS, HUNGARIAN TV SEPT 10 CARRIED SIGNING BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BINDER IN MOSCOW OF SOVIET-U.S. TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT. ALL BUDAPEST NEWSPAPERS PROMINENTLY CARRIED SHORT, FACTUAL RELEASES COVERING FIRST AND SECOND DAYS' BUSINESS SESSIONS OF BINDER VISIT. TEXT SIMILAR TO THAT CARRIED MTI IN ENGLISH (REF D).

7. COMMENT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY BINDER'S VISIT WAS MOST USEFUL AND THE TIMING WAS NEXT TO PERFECT. IT FOCUSED HUNGARIAN ATTENTION (IN FOREIGN OFFICE AS WELL AS IN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION) ON AREAS OF GREAT POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION ONCE CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED. AND WE ARE BEGINNING TO RECEIVE WISPS OF EVIDENCE THAT HUNGARIANS ARE CONNECTING BINDER TRIP TO BUDAPEST WITH SEPT 14-16 VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL (REF A). FOLLOWING AS IT DID TRIP BY DAS COMMERCE DOWNEY SEPT 4, COINCIDING WITH THAT OF COMMERCE DEPUTY DIRECTOR BEWT STROH SEPT 12-13, AND PRECEDING VISIT BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE MORTON OCT 8-9. FURTHER, MAGYARS WHO ARE INCLINED BY INSTINCT TO SEE PROPTER HOC RELATIONSHIPS IN EVERY DROP OF RAIN HAVE NOT FAILED TO NOTE THAT A GREAT MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED SINCE FONMIN PUJA MET WITH THE SECRETARY IN HELSINKI ON AUGUST 1.

8. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY BINDER IMPRESSED HUNGARIAN HOSTS WITH HIS KNOWLEDGE AND MATURE PROFESSIONALISM; AND HE VERY CERTAINLY IMPRESSED ME. IF THIS EMBASSY HAD HAD THE OPPORTUNITY, WE COULD HAVE HELPED HIM TO MAKE HIS VISIT EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE; AND WE COULD HAVE EXPANDED OUR OWN CONTACTS IN THE PROCESS. PLEASE HELP US TO EXPLOIT OUR ASSETS; AND PLEASE SEND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US MORE BINDERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUDAPE03049
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750325-0502
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750932/aaaabcjs.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION BINDER VISIT TO BUDAPEST, SEPTEMBER 11-SEPTEMBER 13, 1975
TAGS: OTRA, HU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006